

VZCZCXRO7017
RR RUEHBI RUEHCI RUEHDBU RUEHLH RUEHPW
DE RUEHNT #0345 0821115
ZNY CCCCC ZZH
R 231119Z MAR 09
FM AMEMBASSY TASHKENT
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 0645
INFO ALL SOUTH AND CENTRAL ASIA COLLECTIVE
CIS COLLECTIVE
RHEHAAA/NSC WASHINGTON DC
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 0004
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHINGTON DC
RUEHHE/AMEMBASSY HELSINKI 0003
RUEHNT/AMEMBASSY TASHKENT
RUEHVEN/USMISSION USOSCE 0154
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHINGTON DC

C O N F I D E N T I A L TASHKENT 000345

SIPDIS
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI PASS TO AMCONSUL ST PETERSBURG
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PASS TO AMCONSUL VLADIVOSTOK
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PASS TO AMCONSUL YEKATERINBURG
AMEMBASSY ASTANA PASS TO USOFFICE ALMATY
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PASS TO AMCONSUL HYDERABAD

E.O. 12958: DECL: 2018-12-22
TAGS: [PREL](#) [PGOV](#) [PHUM](#) [GG](#) [UZ](#)
SUBJECT: Uzbekistan: Timing is Not Conducive for Demarche on
Abkhazia and South Ossetia

REF: A.) STATE 24186; B.) 08 TASHKENT 1029; C.) 08 TASHKENT 1420
D.) TASHKENT 108; E.) TASHKENT 183

CLASSIFIED BY: Timothy P Buckley, Second Secretary; REASON: 1.4(B),
(D)

¶1. (C) Post determined that it would be counterproductive to deliver ref A demarche to the Government of Uzbekistan encouraging it to resist signs of de facto recognition for Abkhazia or South Ossetia. Uzbekistan has to date consistently resisted strong Russian pressure to recognize both breakaway republics, including at the SCO summit in Dushanbe last year and separate visits to Tashkent by both Prime Minister Vladimir Putin and President Dmitry Medvedev (refs B - D). Uzbekistan already sees itself as in a very delicate position in balancing relations with Russia. We believe Uzbekistan would resent any further pressure from the U.S. on the issue, especially regarding the travel of its officials stationed in Moscow, which would prompt complaints of U.S. meddling in its bilateral affairs. The demarche could also lead Uzbekistan to conclude that it enjoys added leverage over the U.S. at a time when we are already working hard to dispel the notion that our need for Afghan transit networks trumps other interests.

¶2. (C) We do not believe that Uzbekistan will recognize either breakaway republic -- nor will it recognize Kosovo (ref E) -- since authorities are concerned about ethnic divisions and borders in Central Asia itself.
NORLAND